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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Good Morning America

STATION WJLA TV  
ABC Network

DATE January 26, 1982 7:00 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Mystery Involving the Hugel Appointment

JACK ANDERSON: Another mystery is bubbling up inside the Central Intelligence Agency. This one has sinister overtones. It began with the appointment of Max Hugel, a rank outsider, as the chief spy. He was put in charge of covert operations. Insiders feared that the CIA's darkest secrets were about to be laid bare to someone who might not appreciate the spy agency's methods.

In a matter of weeks, Hugel was forced out. He was accused of shady stock deals. Now, there was some suspicion that Hugel had been sandbagged by the old pros in the CIA. They didn't want an outsider sticking his nose into their business.

Well, not long afterwards, the two men who blew the whistle on Hugel vanished. They were two brothers, Samuel and Thomas McNell (?). Now, the word spread that the CIA had something to do with their disappearance. The suspicion became so pressing that a body of a third McNell brother, Dennis, was exhumed to make sure he hadn't been the victim of foul play. Well, the autopsy showed that he died of natural causes.

Well, now I've learned that the two missing McNell brothers apparently are quite alive. A former business partner got a Christmas card from them. The card was mailed from Dallas, Texas. Now, on the back of the holiday greeting the brothers scribbled an apology to their former business associate. They said they were sorry that they'd gone on the lam with \$3 million of their company's funds. They were not so sorry, however, that they returned the \$3 million.

Does this solve the mystery? Well, not quite. You see, the man who got the Christmas card didn't tell anyone about it. Yet, all of a sudden, he got a call from the FBI asking if he had

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heard from the McNells.

The CIA moves in mysterious ways.